

**Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission  
City of Jasper, Indiana  
October 1, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at Jasper City Hall Council Chambers. Roll call was held with the following **Commission Members Present in Person:** Darla Blazey, Jasmine Bosler, Emi Donato, Corie Eckerle, Bibianna Green, Linda Kahle, Heath Kluemper, Beth Seidl, Pat Thyen, & Selena Vonderheide. **Non-Voting Student Representative:** Absent. **Observed Remotely via Zoom:** None. **Commission Members Absent:** Jay Hamlin. **Staff Members Present:** Kyle Rupert, Eric Herndon, Emily Peak, Danny Kopp, Casey Uebelhor, & Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Renee Kabrick. **Guests in attendance:** Mayor Dean Vonderheide (via Zoom). The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Corie Eckerle** moved to approve the minutes of September's meeting. **Selena Vonderheide** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

**City Financial Statement**

**Pat Thyen** moved to approve the claims as presented. **Emi Donato** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

**Old Business**

- Emily is still researching clay pug mill options. She has an appointment scheduled to see one of the models she is looking at in action. She hopes to have quotes ready to present at the next meeting.

**New Business**

- Cale Knies, Director of Personnel Safety Loss Control shared with Kyle that many college students who apply for internships start looking in the fall for the following summer and suggested starting the hiring process. **Linda Kahle** made a motion to allow Kyle to seek applicants for a summer intern. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.
- Kyle asked permission to seek quotes for new computers. One computer must be replaced due to age and another due to ongoing issues both of which are included in the 2025 budget. He would like to have quotes in place to replace all of the computers, should money be available from this year's budget. **Darla Blazey** made a motion to allow Kyle to seek quotes for replacement computers. **Jasmine Bosler** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.
- Visit Dubois County invited Kyle to attend the Indiana Tourism Association Attraction Summit in South Bend. Visit Dubois County would cover the registration cost and JCA would be responsible for his hotel stay. The trip cost is under the threshold of needing board approval, but he wanted to let the board know he plans to attend the Summit.

**Director's Report/Performing Arts**

Kyle reported:

- Several hundred people were in to see the exhibits in September and nearly 6,000 people for the year. Just under 32,000 have utilized JCA's spaces and participated in JCA's programs.
- The education and public performance season started last week. Roughly 1,000 students attended *Justin Roberts and the Not Ready for Naptime Players* concert. *Hunter Hayes's* concert was well attended. Kyle commented that it was one of the younger audiences in recent years. Hunter drew fans in from outside the area and as far away as Colorado. The Flex Ticket package should help improve the attendance rate. He will continue to monitor the attendance rate to see if it improves from previous seasons.
- *Chris Dixon's* performance is this weekend. Eight tickets were turned in for his sold-out show so there are a few tickets available.
- *Preacher Lawson* is closing in on 600 tickets sold. He is the first Main Stage comedian since Vicki Lawrence in 2003.
- Backstage artist *Jessica Fichot* has about 20 tickets available for her November performance.
- Year over year ticket revenue is up over 30% and the number of tickets sold is up 12%. Many ticket buyers are from out of town.
- Planning for JCA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations is going well. Once a few more the details are finalized he will reach out to the committee.

- Planning for the 2025-2026 season has started. Emily has started working on contracts for the 2025 visual artists and he has met with performing artists' agents.
- Darla, Selena, and Kyle met with Branded by Woods to discuss the rebranding logos. A variety of options were presented and brought to the staff for feedback. They will meet again to see the proposed changes.
- Kyle shared an update on JCA's strategic plan progress.

### **Building and Structure Report**

Danny reported:

- The Jasper Arts Center has been organized in preparation for the start of the performance season. Hunter Hayes had a full production crew that handled most of the elements for his show. Due to the short turnaround time between Hunter Hayes and Justine Roberts performances, Concept Sound and Light did sound reinforcement for both performances.
- The backstage setup is in place for Chris Dixon's performance. Andy Hoffman will do the sound and lights for the performance.
- There are several upcoming rentals and Preacher Lawson will perform later in the month.
- The Cultural Center lights in the atrium and exterior lights under the awning on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue have been replaced. There have been issues with the lights for several months and replacement parts were finally delivered.

### **Visual Arts Report**

Emily reported:

- A few quilts sold from the *Patoka Valley Quilters* Guild exhibit. *Valerie Eickmeier and Cara Lee Wade's* exhibit will open on Thursday. Both artists will be at the First Thursday opening reception.
- Christina Zimmerman from Evansville won Best in Show in the Juried Exhibition.
- Applications are available for Jasper residents for JCA and the Jasper Public Library's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Decorating contest. The online application closes on October 16.
- Clay open studio continues to be offered on Mondays and Thursdays. At the end of the month, two new clay wheel-throwing classes will start.

### **Event Report**

Eric reported:

- He shared information about the upcoming rentals for October. There are several back-to-back rentals during the month.
- He is still working through the details for JCA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.
- He is advertising renting the Cultural Center.

### **Education Report**

Casey reported:

- She hosted a field trip for the Jasper Middle School Art Club. The Best in Show Juried Winner, Christina Zimmerman shared information about her piece.
- The first kid's open painting and drawing was held a few weeks ago. There will be one session a month throughout the fall. Open Drawing for adults was last week. The model was dressed as a medieval knight and will also be held once a month throughout the fall.
- Her first Education Committee meeting was held a few weeks ago.
- She designed a craft for the Pirates on the Patoka event.
- There are several upcoming workshops and a few new instructors will be teaching this fall. Lange-Fuhs will have a workshop for its clients.
- *Justin Roberts and the Not Ready for Naptime Players* was well received and she received positive feedback from the students and teachers.
- Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated in October. The Dia de Muertos ofrenda will be built at the end of the month and the event will take place on November 1 from 6-8 pm. The event will feature face painting, food, and crafts. Students from Jasper and Southridge High Schools will be at the event presented in partnership with JCA and ALASI.
- Fall Camp Create will be held October 14-17 from 9 am to noon. Gustav Klimt is the artist of focus.

**Public Business**

- Artist Myra Schuetter has a 50-year retrospective exhibit at the Evansville Museum. Darla encouraged those that are able to attend.

**Adjournment**

**Darla Blazey** moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 pm. **Linda Kahle** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

Darla Blazey

Selena Wonders Heide